4.2.2.2 Site Infrastructure

Nevada Test Site had an extensive infrastructure to handle the underground test program. With the cessation of nuclear testing, many of the operations around the site have been terminated. However, the facilities remain in place and are considered to be available.

Preferred Alternative: No Action Alternative

The infrastructure currently in place at NTS is capable of handling all anticipated missions and functions associated with the No Action Alternative.

Consolidation Alternative

Modify Existing Tunnel Drifts and Construct New Material Handling Building at the P-Tunnel

Construction to modify the P-Tunnel and construct a new material handling building to accommodate long-term storage of Pu at NTS would not impact the site infrastructure. Data for construction are presented in Appendix C. Operations impacts to NTS infrastructure under this option are in the areas of electrical energy and fuel requirements for the site. As shown in Table 4.2.2.2–1, additional electrical energy would be required to operate the facility. A small amount of oil would be required to operate the modified P-Tunnel for storage of Pu. Since oil availability is governed by usage and not by storage capacity onsite, the additional oil could be procured through normal contractual means. The preconceptual facility design uses natural gas as a fuel source. The final facility design for NTS would be converted to an energy source already available at NTS. With this conversion from natural gas to oil, site infrastructure requirements are within site capacities.

Construct New Plutonium Storage Facility

Constructing a new storage facility to accommodate long-term storage of Pu at NTS would not affect the site infrastructure. Data for construction are presented in Appendix C. Operations impacts to NTS infrastructure under this option are in the area of fuel requirements. As shown in Table 4.2.2.2–1, a small amount of oil would be required to operate the new facility for storage of Pu. Since oil availability is governed by usage and not by storage capacity on site, the additional oil could be procured through normal contractual means. Adequate electrical energy is available from the regional power grid. The preconceptual facility design uses natural gas as a fuel source. The final facility design for NTS would be converted to an energy source already available at NTS. With this conversion from natural gas to oil, site infrastructure requirements are within site capacities.

Collocation Alternative

Modify Existing Tunnel Drifts and Construct New Material Handling Building at the P-Tunnel

Construction to modify the P-Tunnel and construct a new material handling building to accommodate long-term storage of Pu and HEU at NTS would not affect site infrastructure. Data for construction are presented in Appendix C. Operations impacts to NTS infrastructure under this option are in the areas of electrical energy and fuel requirements for the site. As shown in Table 4.2.2.2–1, additional electrical energy would be required to operate the facility. A small amount of oil would be required to operate the modified P-Tunnel for storage of Pu and HEU. Since oil availability is governed by usage and not by storage capacity on site, the additional oil could be procured through normal contractual means. Adequate electrical energy is available from the regional power grid. The preconceptual facility design uses natural gas as a fuel source. The final facility design for NTS would be converted to an energy source already available at NTS. With this conversion from natural gas to another energy source, site infrastructure requirements are within site capacities.

Construct New Plutonium and Highly Enriched Uranium Storage Facilities

Constructing a new storage facility to accommodate long-term storage of Pu and HEU at NTS would not affect the site infrastructure. Data for construction are presented in Appendix C. Operations impacts to NTS infrastructure under this option are in the areas of electrical energy and fuel requirements. As shown in Table 4.2.2.2–1, additional electrical energy would be required to operate the facility. A small amount of oil would be required to operate the new facility for storage of Pu and HEU. Since oil availability is governed by usage and not by storage capacity on site, the additional oil could be procured through normal contractual means. Adequate electrical energy is available from the regional power grid. The preconceptual facility design uses natural gas as a fuel source. The final facility design for NTS would be converted to an energy source already available at NTS. With this conversion from natural gas to oil, site infrastructure requirements are within site capacities.

Subalternative Not Including Strategic Reserve and Weapons Research and Development Materials

With a change to the preconceptual facility designs that would allow use of a fuel source already in place at NTS, the existing site infrastructure would be fully capable of supporting construction/modification and operation of facilities for the Consolidation of Pu and Collocation of Pu and HEU Alternatives. With this change, constructing and operating such alternatives, without including provisions for storage of strategic reserve and weapons R&D materials could be accommodated as well. Expected reductions in annual electrical energy requirements from that of the various storage alternatives for all the nonsurplus materials are the only site infrastructure changes expected if this subalternative is chosen because electric usage is dependent on the amount of material. [Text deleted.]